



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of Wisconsin*

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NEW SUMMARY:

United States Attorneys Office announced today that a federal grand jury in the Eastern District of Wisconsin has returned a 16-count indictment charging five individuals with mail fraud.

The indictment alleges that between May 2003 and November 2004, Thurman McGahee (DOB: 3/6/56), 3126 North 37th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a long time claims representative for the Social Security Administration, diverted more than \$160,000.00 to his own use and the use of his associates by altering recipient information and causing fraudulent checks to be generated and mailed to himself and his associates.

Also indicted, were Nicole Tanner (DOB: 4/16/69), 3215 North 46th Street; Otis White, Jr. (DOB: 10/31/68, 3515 North 49th Street; Brenda Jones (DOB: 12/31/71), 4418 West North Avenue; and Charlene Bellamy-Oglen (DOB: 8/21/71), 3946 North 60th Street.

Upon conviction, each defendant faces up to 20 years in prison and a fine up to \$250,000 as to each count.

The case was investigated by the Social Security Administration, Office of the Inspector General and has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Carol L. Kraft.

The public is cautioned that an indictment is merely the formal method of returning charges against an individual and does not constitute inference of his or her guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until such time, if ever, that the government established his or her guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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